

61. *BUTORIDES JAVANICUS* (Horsf.), Tr. Linn. Soc. xiii. p. 190, "Java" (1820).

"S. Andaman, Feb. 4: ♀, iris yellow; legs and feet dark green; soles of feet yellow."

A single example. Does not differ from Indian individuals.

62. *MARECA GIBBERIFRONS*, S. Müller, Verhand. p. 159, "Celebes" (1839-44); Walden, Tr. Zool. Soc. viii. p. 102.

Querquedula andamanensis, Tytler, Ibis, 1867, p. 333. no. 89, sine descr.

? *Mareca punctata*, Cuv.: Ball, J. A. S. B. 1872, p. 290. no. 62, "Andamans;" Str. Feath. i. p. 88.

Mareca albogularis, Hume, Str. Feath. i. p. 303, "Andamans" (1873).

"S. Andaman, ♂ ♀, February; iris brown; bill plumbeous; legs and feet greenish: ♀, January.

The collection contains three males and two females. One, a female, is absolutely identical with an authentic Celebesian example. While equal in dimensions with Timor examples, they all somewhat exceed in size Celebesian individuals, which, as is well known, are generally smaller than the races that inhabit other areas.

XXXVII.—Notices of recently published and forthcoming Ornithological Works. By the EDITOR.

SEVERAL important works bearing on Ornithology have been published within the last few months, concerning which a few words may not be unacceptable to our readers.

'Lahore to Yarkand'* contains an account by Mr. Hume of the birds collected during Mr. Forsyth's celebrated expedition into Central Asia. Specimens of about 158 species were obtained altogether; but only 59 of these were collected actually in Yarkand. They appear to have been well worked

* Lahore to Yarkand. Incidents of the Route and Natural History of the Countries traversed by the Expedition of 1870, under T. D. Forsyth, Esq., C.B. By G. Henderson, M.D., and A. O. Hume, C.B. London: Reeve & Co., 1873. 1 vol. 8vo.

out by Mr. Hume; and no less than 22 coloured plates are devoted to the illustration of the new and rare species. The most interesting discovery is certainly that of two new species of *Podoces*, called *P. hendersoni* and *P. humilis*, both of which are figured.

Another well-illustrated volume* recently published gives an account of the expedition of the 'Curaçoa' among the South-Sea Islands in 1865, and a *résumé* of the numerous novelties obtained on this occasion. For this work Mr. J. L. Brenchley, whose untimely death took place just before the publication of the volume, has put together the results arrived at by various naturalists from an examination of his collections. The birds were originally described by the late Mr. G. R. Gray in the 'Annals of Natural History' for 1870. In the present volume, of which the ornithological part is likewise by Mr. Gray, the descriptions are repeated, with some additions, and are accompanied by 21 coloured plates drawn by Mr. Smit.

The second portion of Prof. Sundevall's 'Methodi Naturalis Avium disponendarum Tentamen''†, which we have just received, completes this most important work. It contains a complete ornithological system, and gives Latin diagnoses of all groups down to the families and their principal subdivisions, and should be carefully studied by every ornithologist.

The original preface and introduction to Prof. Sundevall's work are written in Swedish; but a French translation is added, which will still further extend their usefulness. Prof. Sundevall's primary division of the class of birds is into two "agmina," *Psilopædes* and *Ptilopædes*, with reference to the state of the young when first excluded from the egg. This is a well-known division, used by several other authors, but not so exactly characterized as by Prof. Sundevall, and not so appropriately named. These two agmina, according to our author, contain the following seven Orders:—

* Jottings during the Cruise of H.M.S. 'Curaçoa' among the South-Sea Islands in 1865. By Julius L. Brenchley, M.A., F.R.G.S. London: Longmans, Green, & Co., 1873.

† Stockholm, 1872-73: 1 vol., 8vo, pp. 188.

1. Oscines.	{	Psilopædes.	5. Grallæ.	{	Ptilopædes.
2. Volucres.			6. Palmatæ.		
3. Accipitres.	{	Ptilopædes.	7. Proceres.		
4. Gallinæ.					

Some of Prof. Sundevall's collocations will surprise his brother ornithologists, such as his reference of *Panurus* (sive *Calamophilus*) to the Viduinæ, of *Upupa* to the vicinity of the Larks, of *Dasycephala* to the Tityrinæ, and of *Glareola* to the Caprimulgidæ! But Prof. Sundevall is not one of those persons who do things without giving some good reason for them.

We have also received, addressed "To the Editor," copies the first two parts of a new American ornithological work entitled 'The Birds of Florida,' containing original descriptions of upwards of 250 species, with notes on their habits by C. J. Maynard, with 5 plates drawn and coloured from nature by Helen S. Farley: Salem, Naturalists' Agency, 1872-73: and No. xiv. of the 'Journal de Sciencias' of Lisbon, containing a seventh paper by Prof. Barboza du Bocage on the birds of the Portuguese possessions in Africa.

As regards forthcoming works on ornithology we may mention that a new edition of Mr. Layard's work on the birds of South Africa, under the supervision of Mr. Sharpe, is in preparation, and that Mr. Shelley is engaged on a book relating to the birds of the western portion of the same continent.

Mr. Gould is preparing to issue the final numbers of his great work 'The Birds of Great Britain,' which will, we believe, be completed before the end of the year.

A new work on the Birds of the New World, consisting of a catalogue of the species known to occur in the Neotropical Region, and an account of their distribution, is noticed in our advertising columns.

A reprint of Boddaert's excessively rare work, 'Table des Planches Enluminées,' which ornithologists are constantly requiring for reference, has been undertaken by Mr. Tegetmeier, F.L.S. We have seen proofs of the reprint, which is a *verbatim et literatim* copy of the original, every word, line, and page being reproduced in fac-simile, even to the typo-

graphical errors of the old edition. The reprint will be issued, to subscribers only, at 5s. a copy. Specimens of the work may be obtained by application to Mr. Tegetmeier, 346 Strand, London, W.C.

XXXVIII.—*Letters, Announcements, &c.*

The following letters, addressed “To the Editor of ‘The Ibis,’” have been received:—

Marldon, near Totnes.
20th March 1873.

SIR,—In ‘The Ibis’ for 1862, p. 207, I recorded the dates at which a female of *Vultur auricularis* in my possession had laid an egg during four successive years ending 26th February 1862; and I think it may now be interesting to record the dates of the eggs which the same individual has subsequently produced, viz.:—

24th February 1863,	2nd March 1868,
21st ,, 1864,	3rd ,, 1869,
20th ,, 1865,	18th ,, 1872,
24th ,, 1866,	17th ,, 1873.

This bird has never laid more than one egg in the same year; her eggs are white, but sometimes, especially in the case of the earlier eggs, more or less sprinkled and clouded with rufous, chiefly towards the obtuse end.

I am yours, &c.

J. H. GURNEY.

SIR,—Mr. Blanford has recently directed my attention to a supposed new species of Plover from Burmah, described by Mr. Hume in his new periodical, ‘Stray Feathers’ (No. 1, November 1862, p. 17), under the name of *Eudromias tenuirostris*. I imagine that it was by a *lapsus calami* that Mr. Hume wrote *Eudromias* for *Ægialitis*; for his description shows that the bird belongs to the latter genus, and in one paragraph he speaks of it as not belonging “to any of the